

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NEA-10 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3576
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TAGS: ENRG, SW, NI
SUBJECT: SWEDEN STRENGTHENS BILATERAL COOPERATION WITH NIGERIA

REF: (A) 77 STOCKHOLM 2964, (B) 77 STOCKHOLM 3400, (C) 77
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1. FOLLOWING NIGERIAN OIL MINISTER MHAMMED BUHARI'S WEEK-LONG
VISIT IN SWEDEN WHICH ENDED ON APRIL 17, THE STOCKHOLM PRESS
REPORTED THAT THE SWEDISH FIRM GRANGES HEDLUND, A LEADING
STEEL MANUFACTURER EXPECTS TO BE AWARDED A CONTRACT TO BUILD
OIL STORAGE TANKS IN NIGERIA. THE CONTRACT IS REPORTEDLY
WORTH 320 MILLION KRONOR. THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST OF SEVERAL
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ADDITIONAL ORDERS WHICH SWEDISH INDUSTRY IS EXPECTED TO
RECEIVE AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE NIGERIAN OIL MINISTER'S
VISIT.

2. MINISTER BUHARI AND HIS DELEGATION ALSO HELD DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH THE TWO LEADING SWEDISH SHIPYARDS KOCKUMS
AND GOTAVERKEN CONCERNING POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF SEVERAL

LNG SHIPS. BUHARI SAID THAT NIGERIA IS PLANNING TO PURCHASE SEVEN SUCH VESSELS AND A DECISION WILL BE REACHED ON THE AWARDING OF A CONTRACT FOR THEIR CONSTRUCTION LATER THIS YEAR. THE TWO SWEDISH SHIPYARDS ARE SAID TO HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF RECEIVING THAT CONTRACT.

3. A LONG-RANGE BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN NIGERIA AND SWEDEN IS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED DURING THE SUMMER OF 1978. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE AGREEMENT WILL PROVIDE FOR THE SUPPLY OF SWEDISH KNOW-HOW AND TRAINING IN THE PLANNING OF NIGERIA'S DEVELOPMENT. IN EXCHANGE NIGERIA WILL GUARANTEE SWEDEN LONG-TERM DIRECT PURCHASES OF NIGERIAN CRUDE OIL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.

4. COMMENT. SWEDEN HAS SHOWN A GROWING INTEREST IN STRENGTHENING BILATERAL COOPERATION WITH NIGERIA AS REFTELS INDICATED. EARLY IN 1976 CARL LIDBOM, SWEDEN'S COMMERCE MINISTER IN ITS PREVIOUS SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, FIRST VISITED NIGERIA FOR TALKS ON SWEDISH ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING NIGERIA'S ELECTRIC POWER RESOURCES. THAT VISIT HAS SINCE BEEN FOLLOWED BY SEVERAL OTHERS, INCLUDING A VISIT LAST AUGUST BY SWEDEN'S PRESENT ENERGY MINISTER OLOF JOHANSSON, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS UNDER SECRETARY GUNNAR SODER AS WELL AS HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE SWEDISH MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN UNCLASSIFIED

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AFFAIRS.

5. KEEN SWEDISH INTEREST IN FINDING ASSURED SUPPLIES OF PETROLEUM AND DEVELOPING EXPORT MARKETS FOR ITS ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRIES LEADS NATURALLY TO CLOSER TIES TO OIL PRODUCERS LIKE NIGERIA, ALGERIA, SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN, ALL OF WHICH HAVE RECEIVED SWEDISH DELEGATIONS IN RECENT MONTHS. KENNEDY-MINOTT

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